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7-1-1981

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Recommended Citation

John O. Dahlgren, *Inter-American Bar Association*, 13 U. Miami Inter-Am. L. Rev. 258 (1981)
Available at: <http://repository.law.miami.edu/umialr/vol13/iss2/7>

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Inter-American Bar Association

JOHN O. DAHLGREN*

I. TWENTY-SECOND CONFERENCE

A. *Summary of Proceedings*

Our XXII Conference held in Quito, Ecuador, March 14-20, hosted by the *Federación Nacional de Abogados del Ecuador* and the *Colegio de Abogados de Quito*, was a great success. The Opening Session at the *Palacio Legislativo* featured an address by the Constitutional President of the Republic of Ecuador, Dr. Jaime Roldós Aguilera, who described Ecuador as a "Country of Peace and Law." Others in attendance at this formal session were the First Lady of Ecuador, Dr. Martha Bucaram de Roldós; the Vice-President of Ecuador, Dr. Oswaldo Hurtado; the Vice-President of the National House of Representatives, Gil Barragán Romero; the Minister of Foreign Relations; the Attorney General; the Mayor of Quito; the Prefect of the Province of Pichincha, and other Ecuadorian government officials. Drs. Ricardo Izurieta Mora Bowen and José Vicente Troya Jaramillo, Presidents of the host associations, welcomed the delegates and guests to the historic city of Quito. IABA President, Judge Antonio J. Bennazar, responded on behalf of the Inter-American Bar Association.

The Theme of the Conference "Inter-American Judicial Cooperation" was presented at a special plenary session on Monday morning. Distinguished speakers included Hon. José Trías Monge, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico; Dr. Juan Isaac Lovato, Dean Emeritus of the Central University of Ecuador; Dr. Isidoro Zanotti, IABA Council member and General Rapporteur; William Reece Smith, President of the American Bar Association; and Peter D. Trooboff, observer representing the American Society of International Law. The Vice-President of Ecuador, Dr. Oswaldo Hurtado, spoke at the Solemn Closing Ceremony on Friday afternoon, as did Dr. Armando Pareja Andrade, President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Ecuador; Dr. Pedro J. Mantellini, of Venezuela, the newly elected President of IABA; and Dr. Frank E. Nattier, IABA Council member, USA.

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More than 500 lawyers from twenty nations, as well as official observers representing various international organizations, were in attendance. Some seventy-four papers were prepared for the Conference and presented for consideration by the various committees. The host associations provided an outstanding social program which included several receptions and a ceremony declaring all delegates and guests "Illustrious Guests of the City of Quito." The Inter-American Bar Association owes a great debt of gratitude to the host associations, the Government of Ecuador, and to our Ecuadorian colleagues who did so much to make the Conference the success it was.

B. Election of Officers

Dr. Pedro J. Mantellini, of Caracas, Venezuela, was elected as the new President of the IABA. This reporter, Dr. John O. Dahlgren, of Washington, D.C., United States, was re-elected as Secretary-General. Dr. Osvaldo Rengifo, of Santiago, Chile, was elected Secretary; the new Treasurer is Dr. C.A. Dunchee de Abranches, of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Dr. Isidoro Zanotti of Washington, D.C. is the General Rapporteur.

C. Awards Presented

Dr. Sigfrido Gross Brown, of Asunción, Paraguay, former President of the IABA, received the Gold Medal of the Association in recognition of his continued and valuable contributions to the principles of the organization. Two individuals were awarded Silver Medals. Dr. Ricardo Izurieta Mora Bowen, President of the *Federación Nacional de Abogados del Ecuador*, received one such medal, as did Dr. Jose Vicente Troya Jaramillo, President of the *Colegio de Abogados de Quito*. Both gentlemen received Silver Medals in recognition of their outstanding work in connection with the local arrangements for the twenty-fifth conference.

Dr. Alfredo Hanna Musse received the Best Paper Award. Dr. Hanna Musse, whose paper was entitled *De la Creación del Tribunal de Justicia en el Acuerdo de Cartegena*, is from Guayquil, Ecuador.

The William Roy Vallance Award was given to Dr. Natalio Chediak, of Miami, Florida, USA, who is one of the founders of the Inter-American Bar Association. The Vallance Award is given by the Inter-American Bar Foundation to persons who exemplify the outstanding qualities of the first Secretary General of the IABA, William Roy Vallance.

This year the IABA awarded prizes to the law student authors of three outstanding scholarly works. The three hundred (U.S.) dollar

first prize was given to Mitchell M. Cohen and Martha L. Hutzelman of the University of Arizona College of Law, who co-authored a paper entitled *Inter-American Cooperation in Obtaining Testimony: The Problems of Integrating Foreign Systems of Evidence—A comparative Study of the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and Mexico*.** The two hundred dollar second prize was awarded to Daniel R. Einbund, whose paper was entitled *Tax and Energy Incentives and the Foreign Investment Law in Mexico*. Mr. Einbund is a student at the Pace University (New York) School of Law. Miguel A. Loinaz Ramos, a student at the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences of Uruguay, received the one hundred dollar third prize for his work, entitled *Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración—Precedentes, Analisis Comparativo y Proyecciones*.

D. Constitutional Amendments

The Assembly of the IABA approved amendments to Articles II and IV of the Association's constitution. The amendments to Article II provide for a new category of membership for individuals who are citizens of other nations, duly licensed lawyers of good reputation, whether residing in their own or another country, with full privileges, except that they shall not vote or hold office. Individuals who join under the terms of this category shall be termed "Corresponding Associates."

The amendments to Article IV relate to membership on the IABA Council. They provide that councilors designated in accordance with section (c) of Article IV, once the three additional terms have elapsed, shall continue to be members of the Council provided that they shall have attended at least two meetings of the Council during each of the preceding three terms. Another provision states that the president of the Inter-American Copyright Institute shall be included as an ex-officio member of the Council.

E. In Memoriam

Recognition was given to IABA deceased members which included past President Robert G. Storey, USA, and Council members Dr. Luis José Santa Maria, Chile, and Dr. Alberto L. de Guevara, Peru.

**This work is reprinted in this issue of the *Lawyer of the Americas*, *supra* at

II. AGENDA

A. *Directory*

The Association will publish a new IABA Membership Directory within the next few months. The Directory will include copies of the constitution and by-laws, in English and Spanish, as amended during the twenty-second conference. The listing of members will be in alphabetical order, by country of residence, and will contain the names and addresses of all active members. Association members are requested to advise the Secretary-General of changes.

B. *Upcoming Meetings and Conferences*

The Executive Committee of the Association is in the process of evaluating proposals for the sitting of the twenty-third Conference and the next meeting of the IABA Council. Several sites are under consideration by the members of the Executive Committee. The decisions of the Committee are expected in the near future.